STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Successful test firing of surface to surface missile prithvi on February 25, 1988

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am very glad to inform the House of an important technological achievement of Indian scientist and technologies. It is a notable milestone in our programme to achieve self-reliance in areas of high technology and of considerable significance to our defence preparedness.

The first even test firing of "Prithvi", India's tactical surface-to-surface missile, took place at 11.23 in the forenoon today. The House will be glad to know that it was successful, meeting all the specifications. With this successful test firing India joins the select group of 4 nations which have developed this class of surface-to-surface missiles. This missile is based totally on indigenous design and development efforts of the Defence Research and Development Organisation. I would like to stress again that no foreign know-how or collaboration is involved.

"Prithvi" has a range capability of 250 km with different types of large payload war-heads which can inflict heavy damage on adversary targets. Compared to other missiles of this class, it has the best warhead-to-weight ratio. Very advanced inertial navigation and guidance systems incorporating on-board computers operating with real-time software are used in the system. After a number of necessary test launches, we plan to induct "Prithvi" in numbers into our Defence Forces.

On behalf of the House, I would like to place on record our congratulations and warm greetings to all the scientists, engineers, technicians and workers of the Defence Research and Development Organisation who have worked tirelessly and with dedication over the year in designing and developing "Prithvi". The nation is justly proud of them. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I congratulate the engineers, scientists and technologists and the Prime Minister for achieving this success.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA (Maharashtra): Thank you, Madam. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister and all our scientists and technocrats who have not only helped in building "Prithvi" on our land with our technology which is indigenous, but all those scientists who have worked for bringing our country to the forefront of the most technically and scientifically developed countries. It is a day of great pride for us. I would only like to make a request to our Prime Minister who is also the Minister for Science and Technology. I am very emotional about them as I happen to be a small scientist myself. I feel that we should not only congratulate all those scientists and technocrats who are developing the technology indigenously but should also give them all the encouragement which they are receiving from you and which they received from Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru since Independence. We should also resist the pressures of those people who want to buy screw-driver technology from abroad because this will not encourage our scientists and technocrats to develop new systems and new technologies in our country. This is the only assurance which I would like to have from the Prime Minister. Thank you.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to join the Prime Minister and the lady Member who spoke earlier to me in congratulating the scientists, engineers, Technicians and Workers on making this great achievement. This should give us sufficient guidance to develop R&D in other aspects also. Whatever we are lacking elsewhere in R&D, especially in the industrial sector we may take a cue from what has happened in this field and develop so as to make the industrial development of this country stand on its own legs. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure the world at large that while we have developed this tech-

[Prof. C. Lakshmanna]

nology we are for peace. That is the reason why the Prime Minister made it very clear that it can inflict heavy damage on adversely targets "It can" means we are not intending to use it against adversely targets. Therefore we would like to reassure the world that while we have developed this technology, we are only intending to use this as a deterrent for those who may wag a little of their tail against this country. I think, this is what we have to carry as a message to the world at large. Therefore on behalf of my party and on behalf of every Member of this House I would like once again to convey our congratulations to the technologists on the great achievement in launching this missile.

डा० बापू कालदाते (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभापति महोदया, रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसंधान तथा विकास संस्थान के सभी साथियों ने जो महत्तम प्रयास किया और जिसके फलस्वरूप हम 'पृथ्वी' को आकाश में भेज सकें हैं, इसके लिए मैं उन सभी कर्मचारियों, सभी वैज्ञानिकों, सभी टेक्नीशियनों को तहेदिल से बधाई देता हूं और उनका अभिनन्दन करता हूं। यह हमारे लिए एक गौरव की बात है और इसको मैं आनन्द की घटना भी मानता हूं। इससे यह भी पता चलता है कि वैज्ञानिक प्रगति की कक्षा में हम दुनिया में किसी से पीछे नहीं हैं, बल्कि कई देशों से आगे हैं। इस वैज्ञानिक प्रगति के अवसर पर मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से एक विनती करना चाहता हूं। इस दिशा में बहुत प्रयास करने की जरूरत है। हम सभी मानते हैं कि भाषा संस्कृति की वाहन होती है और हम यह बात कई सालों से कहते आए हैं। हमारे देश की राजभाषा हिन्दी है और हमारी जो प्रादेशिक भाषाएं हैं, वे भी समर्थ संस्कृति की वाहन हैं। मुझे राजभाषा समिति का एक सदस्य होने के नाते बार-बार इस बात को देखकर दुःख हुआ है कि इस देश में वैज्ञानिक प्रगति के नाम पर अंग्रेजी भाषा को बढ़ावा देने का प्रयास किया जाता है। कम्प्यूटर और साईंटिफिक डेवलपमेंट के नाम पर अंग्रेजी को चलाने की बात कही जाती है। मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि इस देश की संस्कृति जिसका आप बार-बार जिक्र करते हैं उसका संबंध भाषा से भी है। इस देश में अनेक भाषाएं हैं। हिन्दी इस देश की राजभाषा है और देश की जो अन्य प्रादेशिक भाषाएं हैं व सब समर्थ भाषाएं हैं। वैज्ञानिक उपकरणों के द्वारा हम इन भाषाओं को और भी प्रबल बना सकते हैं। वैज्ञानिक साहित्य के द्वारा देश की आत्मा की एकता को और भी अधिक मजबूत बना सकते हैं ऐसा मैं मानता हूं। इसके लिए प्रादेशिक भाषाओं को समर्थ बनाने के साथ-साथ देश को जोड़ने वाली राजभाषा हिन्दी को भी सक्षम बना सकत हैं। वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान आज के युग में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण वस्तु होती है। मुझे इस बात का बहुत दुःख है कि अभी तक इस दिशा में जितना ठोस काम होना चाहिए था जितना ठोस काम वैज्ञानिकों के जरिए उठाया जाना चाहिए था उतना नहीं हो पाया है ... (व्यवधान)। शायद वे हिन्दी समझ नहीं पा रहे हैं। मैं सभी प्रादेशिक भाषाओं की बात कर रहा हूं। मैं आशा करता हूं कि जिस स्थिति में अब हम पहुंच गये हैं जिस अन्तराल में पहुंच गये हैं हमें अन्तःकरण में पहुंचने के लिए जो वैज्ञानिक काम करना चाहिए वह भी शीघ्र किया जाना चाहिए। मैं आशा करता हूं कि स्वयं प्रधानमंत्री जी इसमें रुचि लेंगे और इस एकात्मकता की प्रक्रिया को आगे बढ़ाने का प्रयास करेंगे और वैज्ञानिक तरीके से इसको आगे बढ़ाने का प्रयत्न करेंगे यही मेरी विनती है।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि भारत के वैज्ञानिकों प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले लोगों और उनके साथी कर्मचारियों ने आज भारत के गौरव को बढ़ाया है और इसलिए इस देश की जनता इन सभी के प्रति सदन के माध्यम से आभार प्रकट करती है। हमारे देश के जो वैज्ञानिक हैं और जो प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र

में लगे हुए हैं, उनके संबंध में अकसर समाचार-पत्रों में पढ़ने को मिलता है कि व कई कारणों से देश को छोड़कर विदेश में जाकर बस जाते हैं। मैं भारत सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इन कारणों की जांच होनी चाहिए कि क्यों हमारे वज्ञानिक आत्म-हत्या कर लेते हैं या विदेशों में जाकर बस जाते हैं, अपने विज्ञान के काम में विदेश में रहना चाहते हैं, इस देश में नहीं रहना चाहते हैं। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं एक बार फिर सारे वैज्ञानिकों के प्रति, प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले वैज्ञानिकों और कर्मचारियों के प्रति और उनके साथियों के प्रति आभार प्रकट करता हूं और विश्वास करता हूं कि हमारे देश के वैज्ञानिकों इस देश को आत्म-निर्भरता की ओर बढ़ाते रहेंगे।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Madam I join you and other distinguished Members of this House to put on record our congratulations and greetings for the scientists, engineers, technicians and workers of the Defence Research and Development organisation who have tirelessly worked for this unique achievement for the country and the nation.

This single fact once again demonstrates that our scientists and technicians are capable of achieving technological success of a high order. This encourages us, particularly myself and other Members of the House to say that given facilities and all kinds of assistance our scientific people can also achieve this kind of advancement in the field of technology not only in Defence, but also in other spheres.

The Prime Minister is on record to say on many occasions that our science is to be utilised for the advancement of the people. In one word 'science for the people' I think this technological achievement which we have been able to secure would also be extened to other spheres .viz. agriculture, industrial development and other allied fields.

At this stage I would also like to remind the Prime Minister that we have been forced, and we have been forced even now, to borrow some technology from outside. But this very single fact demonstrates that we can also do away with the borrowing some technology from outside. If we give proper attention and assistance to the scientific community of our country. Even if we are to borrow some foreign technology, it must be of highly selective nature in order to ensure indigenisation of the borrowed technology. This very achievement also demonstrates that we are capable of doing this I only want to be assured by the Prime Minister that in future even if we are to borrow foreign technology, this should be highly selective and should be such as to be assamilated into our system. For that appropriate strategy is also to be built up.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Madam Deputy Chairman, such occasions are normally used for clarification, but I have no clarification to seek. It is welcome.... (*Interruptions*) I could not hear the hon. Prime Minister. He made some gesture.

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : The Prime Minister did not say anything.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: On classification you made some gesture.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Do you want me to repeat the gesture?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When I said no clarification, you made some gesture.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: I was only surprised. Obviously it went over your head as well.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That you should be surprised would go over my head Mr. Prime Minister. As I was saying before that brilliant example of wit that so far as the present moment is concerned.

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

I am really not interested in asking a clarification. It is an occasion to congratulate the dedicated band of scientists and technologists of the DRDO and I would seek your permission to request the Minister for Defence to convey along with the Prime Minister's sentiments, to the dedicated workers of DRDO and Dr. Arunachalam. The real challenge as the Minister for Defence himself well knows which we will continue to face the challenge of productionising our intellect. That is the essential challenge that confronts DRDO. It has confronted us in the past and will continue to confront us in the future. The first ever test firing of Prithvi, a technical SSM has military implications and uses which is welcomed by me individually as a Member of the House and on behalf of my party. Therefore, I would like to join the hon. Prime Minister in the sentiments that he has expressed and congratulations to the team of DRDO.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, I extend my warmest congratulations and hearty greetings to all the Scientists, Engineers and Technicians for the glorious and marvellous achievements in producing this "Prithvi" SSM.

Madam some of our neighbours are stockpiling arms and armaments and getting sophisticated armaments and weapons and threatening our borders. But let them be aware, let them be warned if anybody dares to come near us, anybody dares to think of encroaching our border areas he will be given a fitting reply with our own weapons, with our own armaments and with our own indigenously produced weapons.

Madam this is a land of peace. Our country has been acclaimed as the land of Gandhiji and as the land of apostles of peace. When we achieve certain things and we are capable of producing indigein the years to come regarding the pronously missiles and sophisticated tanks we are proud of such achievements. But today the land of peace is looked upon with suspicious eyes, We are pained when those weapons are being used to annihilate, massacre and wipe out an ethnic race in a neighbouring country, in a foreign soil. We produced V jayanta tanks at Avadi but these weapons are being used to massacre an ethnic race, Tamil race in the Island of Sri Lanka....**

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:**

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit don't record. It will not go on record. If anything has gone on record it will be expunged. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K L. BHAGAT): It is not an occasion to say all these things. You have the President's Address You can say anything you like. But on a historic occasion like this, you should not say these things. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V .GOPALSAMY: You are killing people and you say to me that I should not raise such things. It may be a historic occasion for you. Madam, I did not utter any word which is unparliamentary. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy, please sit down I am on my legs.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi): Madam Deputy Chairman it is a great day in the life of India today that our scientists achieved this great breakthrough under the leadership of our Prime Minister and the great scientists who have been engaged in research and development both in and outside the defence forces. Madam, I would like to know whether this surface-to-surface missile is using solid or liquid fuel and what is the kind of payload if they like to say, it can carry. The

**Not recorded.

Prime Minister has been pleased to say that it can carry different ones but perhaps, he might like to throw some light on these things I would also like to know whether this capability of understanding the missiles and building them would help us in trying to explore the upper atmosphere for better weather forecast and for better information in other fields. Also will this capability that has been achieved by our great scientists make it possible for us to develop air-to-air or sea to-air missiles also. Once again, I congratulate the scientists our Government as well as the Prime Minister.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairman, it is really a great occasion and on behalf of my party, I would like to congratulate the Government and the Minister of Science and Technology. I would also like to congratulate all the engineers, technicians and scientists for their relentless work because of which it has been possible. It proves that our scientists and technicians are not lagging behind and they can also move along using all the indigenous technical know how in the field of science and technology. We are proud of them. Thank you.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would not have spoken after my colleague Dr. Bapu Kaldate had already spoken but for the occasion. I associate myself with the rest of the House and I regard the achievement of our scientists and technologists as an important milestone not only in research but also in defence preparedness. I look forward to such occasions more frequently in future Surface-to-surface missiles will no doubt strengthen our defence forces. This proves one thing. Given the scope and the encouragement, our scientists and technologists can rise to great heights of achievements. I do not want to be shy in congratulating the Government on its efforts to promote research and development in the defence field. I had occasions to visit defence installations and R & D units. I was really impressed by the dedication and the involvement of our men there. I wish that the Prime Minister should give not only moral encouragement to these men who undertake a tremendous job for the nation but also give them the necessary facilities which are important for achieving such results in future Madam, I do not underestimate the achievement that has been made. But as I said, I would love to have more and more of such achievements in future also so that the might, the power and the prestige of the country can shine very very high in the comity of nations in the years to come.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, on behalf of the AIADMK party, I wish to say a few words. I do not have such to except to stand up and congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, his Ministry and his scientists on the outstanding achievement in the successful testing of the missile. I have got one or two points for clarification. The first is with regard to the production of the missile. After the successful testing, they have to produce it for actual use. Sometimes, a pilot project testing may happen, but the follow up of large-scale production may not be there. Now, after this testing, India has been equated with four other countries which are capable of producing these missiles. But then, what will be the position in the years to come regarding the production of the missile? I would like to know what scheduled we have regarding the production of these missiles in the years to come. There is nother point I would like to get clarified. Apart from the defence exercises for which purpose these missiles will be useful, has India any other objective regarding these missiles for which testing has been done?

I would like to make another point. It has been said by many others too. Indians outside India, either in business or in science or in any other avenue, are able to produce high results. There are many Indians who are abroad in the United States who have received the Nobel Prize Of course, we have not received the prize for a number of years. I would only request the hon. Prime Minister to examine why Indians who are in foreign soil are able to produce such results while we are able to produce results slowly, if not nothing in many fields. We have to create a suitable climate in India so that the intellect and

[Shri G. Swaminathan]

the expertise of Indians can be made more productive and more useful to the country. Thank you.

SHRI N. E.BALARAM (Kerala): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I am very happy to note that our scientists, engineers and technicians and workers of the Defence Research and Development Organization were able to achieve a big success. I really congratulate them and I am very proud that our country has made a very good achievement. I have only to make one observation. I hope this achievement will reinforce our understanding of self-reliance which we are lacking now.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I on behalf of my party associate myself with the rest of my honourable colleagues to express my extreme happiness on this great occasion. I congratulate the scientists, the technicians and all the workers who brought this success and I do hope that this success will be followed by many more successes. This shows what a great wealth of intellectuals we have in our own country. I hope that our intellectuals and scientists will get more and more scope to develop our country in all its aspects and there will be no need for the sad brain-drain that is taking place these days.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to join others in congratulating the people of Defence Research and Development Organisation, the engineers, the technicians and the scientists. It is a red letter day for them and a very proud day for the country. I am glad to know that our Defence Services can now hope to get the very best equipment and weapons indigenously produced by our own experts to defend the country Naturally this will give them great confidence. I would also like to recommend that these people who have brought this honour to the country deserve a great deal of encouragement and I am also certain that our scientists who have been working abroad will now find that it is better for them to come back to this country and put in their bit of effort towards the progress of this country.

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदया, जैसा सदन का सर्वसम्मत प्रधानमंत्री और वैज्ञानिकों के लिए बधाई का प्रस्ताव है मैं भी उसका हृदय से समर्थन करता हूं और जिस तरह का वातावरण आज सदन में है मैं समझता हूं देश की जनतांत्रिक प्रणाली के लिए शुभ चिन्ह है। उपसभापति महोदया, सुबह समर मुखर्जी कुछ बोल रहे थे। तब वह यह बोल रहे थे कि हम राजीव गांधी की विदेश नीति का समर्थन करते हैं, श्रीलंका समझौते का समर्थन करते हैं और अनेक विधेयक भी हम सर्वसम्मति से पास कर चुके हैं, फिर भी उन्होंने एक बात एक कह दी कि राजीव सरकार त्याग-पत्र देकर चनाव कराए। तो उनका औचित्य स्वयं ही समाप्त हो जाता है क्योंकि वह विदेश नीति का समर्थन करते हैं और इसी तरह से विरोध पक्ष के लोग जब सभी नीतियों का समर्थन करते हैं तो कभी-कभी वैज्ञानिकों की भलाई के साथ-साथ मैं समझता हूं कि सदन में जो भी अच्छे काम हैं हर अच्छे काम के लिए सरकार को उसी तरह बधाई देनी चाहिए जिस तरह से आज दी है।

उपसभापति : आप भी बधाई दीजिए।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : मैं भी बधाई देता हूं।

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Madam Deputy Chairman, let me assure the House, or re-assure the House, that India wants peace India works for peace. But at the same time it is necessary for us to be prepared. A lot of technical questions have been asked We are not in a position at the moment to disclose this information. I am sure at the appropriate time the information which can be disclosed will be put to the House and the honourable Members will be made aware of the correct details. One Member asked whether such

technology once it is developed, is absorbed into our industrial system. Let me assure the Member that during the last two or three years we have put a lot of pressure on the Defence industris to do just that and, in fact, the Defence industries are going out more and more to industry, to Indian industry to get support to disseminate their R&D, the new technologies, to give them to our production units so that our production units also start producing the stage-of-the-art very high technology items.

Another Member asked whether this missile could be used for other purposes. It is purely a defence missile and does not have any other purpose.

Let me also reassure the Members that the scientists who developed this missile are second to non in the world and let me also assure them that they work on the Indian soil and not on foreign soil (*Interruptions*).

I would like to thank all the Members for the support that they have given, perhaps almost all the Members for the support that they have given. This is a big boost to them.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): We all have supported it.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: We have all supported it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: All have supported it (*Interruptions*).

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra): I would like to know which are the four nations which are in the club.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: USA, USSR, France and China.

The support that the House has given today will be a big morale booster to all the DRDO scientists, technicians, engineers, technologists and workers.

Lastly I would just like to comment that one Member seemed to have lifted off very well, but his guidance system seemed to have failed; (*Interruptions*).

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Upendra.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam Deputy Chairman, since I have to end my speech on a sour note, I start with a sweet note, by adding my own voice to the plethora of congratulations to our scientists on this great achievement—"Prithvi" I only wish that our achievements in other sectors also had been so remarkable as to deserve compliments. Then, really, the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President would have been very illuminating.

Madam, I am sorry to say that the President's Address, delivered this week without meaning any disrespect to the President was indeed disappointing. It was so dull and routine that the Ministers who attended the function, including the Prime Minister, dozed off during most of the speech. That shows the character of the speech, the great achievements incorporated in the speech. And quite strangely, Madam, this 16-page document does not give any indication of the direction in which this Government is going for proposes to go. It does not give even an idea of how this Gvernment is going to tackle the manifold problems facing this country. More time has been devoted to the problems of Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Palestine, Iran, Iraq, Africa, Guatemala and other countries and the problem of apartheid. I don't object to that. But when specific solutions are offered to international problems, the problems of other countries, the President's Address does not indicate any solution to any of the problems facing this country. That is the unfortunate and the most signficant part of his speech.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai) in the Chair]

Mr. Vice- Chairman, Sir, this Government came into power in 1984 with two specific promises. One is that they would